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THREE INDICTED IN IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME

SACRAMENTO - - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury in Sacramento returned an indictment charging STEVEN ROSS FORD, 36, and JOLENE RAE COLIPAPA, 36, of Cameron Park, California, along with KATRINA MARIE LUCIUS, 26, of Folsom, California, with multiple counts of bank fraud, credit card fraud, and possession of stolen mail.

This case was investigated by the Folsom Police Department, the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office, the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney James P. Arguelles, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment charges that during the period of July of 2002 through November of 2004, defendants FORD and COLIPAPA wrongfully obtained bank account information, credit cards, credit card convenience checks, and credit card statements, all of which were taken from the mail. As part of the scheme, FORD and COLIPAPA provided co-defendant LUCIUS with some of these stolen bank account and credit card convenience checks, which LUCIUS used to make fraudulent purchases at various Sacramento area merchants.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum sentence of thirty years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine for each count of bank fraud which is charged, a maximum sentence of fifteen years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count of credit card fraud which is charged, and a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the possession of stolen mail charges.

The charges in the indictment are only allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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